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News Release

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Second of 2 Twin Cities men plead guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine

A 36-year-old Richfield man pleaded guilty today in federal court to conspiring to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine. Appearing before United States District Court Judge Patrick J. Schiltz in St. Paul, Abel Tajonar Moctezuma pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine.

Moctezuma was indicted on October 21, 2009, as was Juan Carlos Carrasco, 39, Minneapolis. Carrasco pleaded guilty on November 24, 2009, to one count of conspiracy.

In their plea agreements, both defendants admitted to conspiring to distribute the drug. According to a Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") affidavit, the defendants were arrested on September 23, 2009, after selling 1 kilogram of cocaine near Moctezuma's residence. Police subsequently found an additional 168 grams of cocaine in the residence while executing a search warrant.

For their crimes, the men face a potential maximum penalty of 40 years in prison on the conspiracy count, with a mandatory minimum penalty of five years. Judge Schiltz will determine their sentences at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and the DEA. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas M. Hollenhorst.